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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**YUBA COUNTY WOMAN SENTENCED  
TO A YEAR AND A DAY FOR CONSPIRACY  
TO POSSESS STOLEN U.S. MAIL AND IDENTITY THEFT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GAYLE LEA FARINHA, 39, of Wheatland, California, was sentenced for federal theft crimes. On March 24, 2004, FARINHA was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury with conspiracy to possess stolen U.S. mail and 12 counts of possession of U.S. mail that had been stolen from mail boxes in Placer County and Yuba County from May 2003 through September 2003. FARINHA was also charged with one count of identity theft. On April 23, 2004, FARINHA pled guilty to the conspiracy charge, which encompassed the 12 counts of possession of stolen U.S. Mail, and FARINHA pled guilty to the charge of identity theft. The matter had been continued to today for judgment and sentencing.

U.S. District Court Judge Edward J. Garcia refused to give FARINHA a sentence within the range stipulated to by the Office of the United States Attorney and by FARINHA's defense counsel. Judge Garcia also refused to give the sentence recommended by the U.S. Probation Office. Judge Garcia, citing the harm caused by FARINHA upon the victims in this case, sentenced FARINHA to the higher sentence of 12 months and 1 day of federal incarceration. FARINHA stole identification information from a personnel file she had access to while employed at Lorillard Tobacco Company in North Highlands, California. FARINHA then attempted to use the stolen Lorillard personnel identification information to obtain credit. FARINHA also attempted to use and did use financial instruments in stolen U.S. Mail.

As part of her federal sentence, FARINHA received a 36 month term of supervised release and the U.S. District Court ordered FARINHA to pay a \$200 special assessment in addition to a fine of \$3,600 for her U.S. mail theft offenses and identity theft offenses.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case against FARINHA, there were two defendants in associated cases who were also convicted of felonies in federal district court:

1. On March 9, 2004, Tabitha Marie Heidbreder, 20, of Wheatland, California, pled guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to conspiracy to possess stolen U.S. mail and possession of stolen U.S. mail. The offenses stemmed from the burglary of the Yuba City Post Office located at 761 Plumas Street, Yuba City, California and the Marysville Post Office located at 407 C Street, Marysville, California. Heidbreder received a sentence of 36 months probation, \$3,400 restitution, and \$100 special assessment.
2. On March 23, 2004, Connie Elizabeth Toledo, nee Repec, also of Wheatland, also pled guilty before Judge Karlton to possession of stolen U.S. mail and possession of stolen U.S. mail. In her plea, Toledo admitted assisting Heidbreder in forging the stolen checks and attempting to get cash from depositing the stolen checks in Marysville, California. Toledo received a sentence of 1 month confinement, a 36 month term of supervision, \$3,650 restitution, and a \$300 special assessment.

These cases were investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service.

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